



Town of  
*Westford*  
Massachusetts

Town Manager's Newsletter

July 2014



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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Summer Concert Series  
Begins -  
Sunday, July 13  
4 PM on the Common  
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Recreation Department  
Summer Programs  
Page 5

Check out our Westford  
Surplus Equipment  
[Online Auction](#)

Westford's Green  
Community Grant  
Energy Saving Projects  
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Watch Meetings Online

**westford**  
*CAT*

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford residents,**

Our Strategic Planning Retreat, held on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Kimball Farm, was the best attended retreat yet with 140 residents attending. A summary will be presented to the Selectmen soon, but information or an evaluation if you attended may be found at the following link: [Strategic Planning Retreat](#).



Our town was successful in the receipt of several important grants recently. At their June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting the Board of Selectmen acknowledge the receipt of a grant for \$50,000 from the Mass Board of Library Commissioners for a Library Feasibility Study. We also were notified we received a Mass School Building Authority Accelerated Repair Project grant in the amount of \$814,074 to replace windows and doors at the Norman E. Day Elementary School. We also recently received notification that we were awarded \$739,817 from the same authority for replacement of the windows and doors at the Robins Colonel John Robinson School. The Mass Historical Commission was awarded an emergency grant in the amount of \$70,000 for the Westford Museum.

I am also pleased to announce the receipt of \$10,000 from Emerson Hospital to support the Board of health Senior Dental and Shingles Program. We also received \$37,880 in MIIA (our insurance carrier) credits for completing risk management trainings and initiatives.

Our Selectmen received notice from the owners of Drew Gardens, 66 – 68 Boston Road, of their entering a purchase and sale (P&S) to sell the property. As the town holds Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on the property, we have the right of first refusal on the sale. The board determined that the P&S was not a bonafide offer, so we sent notice to the property owner advising such. We had recently advertised for residents interested in serving on a Drew Gardens Task Force - to explore and investigate whether or not the town should exercise its right of first refusal to purchase Drew Gardens, which is actually three separate parcels of land, and make a recommendation to the Selectmen. In addition, the group is being asked to explore possibilities for funding sources for a potential purchase of the property at our Fall Special Town Meeting. Thirty three residents applied, so the board formed a 9 member committee with 2 alternates who will begin meeting to discuss this charge on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Mary Atwood Room at the J. V. Fletcher Library.

(continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

The Selectmen have opened the warrant for our October 20, 2014 Special Town Meeting. The calendar for the meeting may be found at this link: [2014 Special Town Meeting Timeline](#)

I am delighted to announce our new Lost & Found Pet Notification System. This is a system whereby a pet owner may notify the town of a lost pet, and after verification, provide details and a picture. This information will be emailed to a list serve that interested residents may subscribe to. This will allow us to get information out about your lost pet much faster and more efficiently, and to a much larger audience, than by tacking posters on telephone poles, which is also against our bylaws and not permitted by the pole owners (National Grid and Verizon). You may subscribe and learn more about this program at this link: [www.westfordma.gov/subscriber](http://www.westfordma.gov/subscriber)

The Board of Selectmen is considering declaring the Graniteville Fire Station, located at 54 Broadway Street, as surplus property with the intent to sell it. We are notifying abutters now and the board will hear this matter again on July 22nd.

There are several openings on local boards and committees, including the Affordable Housing, Bylaw Review, Communications Advisory, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Pedestrian Safety, Public Works Initiative Committee, and others, and I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees. If you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the town manager's office.

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful summer weather we are experiencing.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross

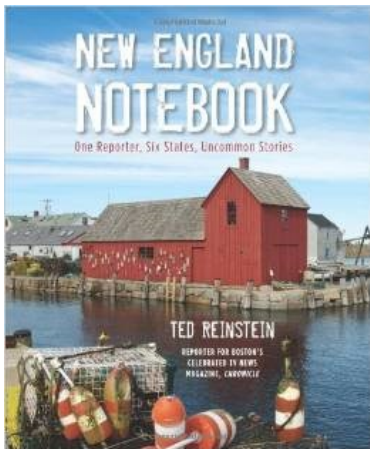
*Scenes from  
Westford Farmers Market*





## J.V. Fletcher Library

Summer Reading Programs at the Library are not just about child's play! At least 550 Westford adults know this because they have already signed up for "Literary Elements," the 2014 Library Adult Summer Reading Program. The Adult Summer Reading Program has ELEMENTS in common with the Children's and Teens & Tweens Programs...ice cream is involved and weekly raffles and grand prize drawings. Adults also have a tantalizing array of Programs to attend, here is a sample of our "not to be missed" events:



After covering every corner of New England for 16 years, Ted got tired of saying, "I have enough stories to fill a book," so he picked the best stories and wrote one. So, if you are looking to: buy some medieval armor; want to know where to find America's oldest baseball diamond; are hankering to discover where the smallest town in the smallest county in the smallest state in the nation is located; want to experience the most inviting diner, the best clam chowder, the choicest oysters, or tastiest pancakes, then be at the Library on Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Oh and Ted is Ted Reinstein, the longtime, award-winning reporter for "Chronicle" - Boston's celebrated TV newsmagazine.

Have you ever wondered how thieves pull off stealing priceless works of art, often in broad daylight, from world renowned art museums? On Thursday, July 31<sup>st</sup> guest speaker, Anthony Amore, who is the Director of Security at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston and an art crime expert, will invite the audience to learn the secrets of some of the most notorious art crimes and thefts in history. His talk will include the unsolved Gardner Museum heist in 1990 when two thieves dressed as Policemen stole 13 pieces of art work valued at \$500 million dollars!



Both of these programs and the others are free and open to all ages. Several other programs require registration. For more information please drop by or call the Information Services Desk in the Library, or visit us online at [www.westfordlibrary.org](http://www.westfordlibrary.org) and choose Reference from the horizontal menu and then click on Adult Programs.



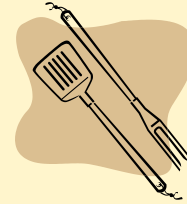
**Please join us!**



## Council On Aging - Coming Events

### **MERRIMACK VALLEY NUTRITION PROGRAM COOKOUT**

Summer cookout here at Cameron  
Thursday, July 24th at 11:30 AM.  
Register at 978-692-5523.



### **"GREASE" AT THE NORTH SHORE MUSIC THEATRE WITH FOX TOURS**

Includes lunch at the Danversport Yacht Club, two meal choices.  
The all inclusive trip cost of \$102 pp (includes driver gratuity).  
10 AM departure time from Franco. Call 978-692-5523 to register.



### **CAMERON GRILL NIGHTS**

The Cameron Senior Center invites you to sign up for our series of Cookouts and Grill Nights. Reservations are a must. Please call 978-692-5523.  
Dining will be indoors.  
Thursday July 17th from 4-6:30 PM.  
Burgers and Hot Dogs served, please bring a salad or dish to share.  
Suzie's Ice Cream will be available at 6 PM, treats include regular and diabetic choices. The cost is \$2.00 per grill night. (Grill closes at 6:00 PM).  
Volunteers needed for clean-up.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation offers various trips to local business establishments such as Market Basket, hairdressers, drug stores, department stores and medical facilities. Trips to Cameron Senior Center and social calls to your friends are also available. Please call 978-399-2322 or email [lmitchell@westfordma.gov](mailto:lmitchell@westfordma.gov) as soon as you know you need transportation. Roundtrip fares are \$3 within Westford; \$6 to neighboring towns; and \$8 to outlying towns. If school is closed due to inclement weather, transportation does not operate.

To view the complete  
Council On Aging Newsletter  
please visit our website at:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center



## Cameron Senior Center Social Dance



*The dance was held on  
June 27, with live  
music provided by  
D.J. Jon Mansfield.*

## Recreation Department News

The Recreation Department is in full summer mode with a variety of programs and offerings for the Westford Community. To register for Recreation programs go to [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com) or stop by the Department office at 35 Town Farm Road, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. Join us for a summer of fun activities.

**Summer Concerts** on the Town Common begin July 13 with The Rafter's. Concerts are from 4-6PM and free of charge. Bring your chairs, blankets and even a picnic basket to enjoy some local talent. Additional dates July 27 – Soul Custody, August 3 – Nashoba Valley Concert Band and August 17 – Pat Gendron.



**Kids Club** under the Direction of Michelle Collette and Tiffany Gintner is off to a great start. The summer program theme this year is "Titles to Tides" which celebrates children's authors with activities inspired by different books and poems. Week 1 – JK Rowlings saw children dive into the world of Harry Potter and friends. Children participate in a variety of activities including sports, games, arts & crafts, swimming, field trips, carnivals and a weekly cookout. Kids Club is a Monday-Friday program from 9AM-3PM with an early drop off option 7-8:45AM and an extended day option 4-5:45PM.



Kids Club participants learn and develop personal skills as well as the importance of working as a member of a team through the Peak Adventure program with Sean O'Leary and Patrick Gendron. They have learned how to put on a climbing harness and belay as they climb trees

to the ropes course. Week 2 – Shel Silverstein – children wrote their own poems about camp and a bit of friendly competition developed between groups. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Kids Club Dance (formal attire optional) was a dazzling success with guest D.J., Eric Bolton (former Kids Club Counselors and current teacher in) participants looking to display their "talents".

There is still time to sign up and join us for the ever popular Carnival Days and trip to Wingaersheek Beach. Kids Club, for ages 4-13, runs through August 15<sup>th</sup> with registration on line at [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com)

**Town Beaches** - Edwards Beach at Nabnasset Lake and Forge Pond Beach are open to Westford Residents, no charge, Monday – Friday 9AM-5PM and Saturday/Sunday 10:30AM-5PM. The beach season is from June 21 through August 21 with the water quality tested weekly. Only Coast Guard approved personal floatation devices (PFD) in good and serviceable condition are allowed at the beaches. PFD's must be the appropriate size for the intended user. Swimming lessons are offered at Edwards beach.





## Recreation Department News (continued)

**Bill Denzel Summer Basketball** Coach Bill brings his expertise and talent to the ever popular basketball program. The program is for children 8-13 and teaches the fundamentals of the game as well as strategy and skills. Each day participant play basketball games to refine the skill learned. The program runs from 9AM-1PM with weekly sessions beginning July 14, July 28, August 4.



**Destination Exploration** under the Direction of Donna Burnham and Geri Simons. The focus is on outdoor activities in a traditional wooded setting. The program takes place at the Stony Brook Conservation Land right by Burge's Pond. From hiking, swimming, fishing, boating to sports, games, arts & crafts, science & nature experiments, the activities are perfect for building environmental awareness and an appreciation for such a wonderful area/facility. Campfire nights for parents and children have become a tradition and fun activity for the entire family. Destination Exploration continues weekly through August 15 and is for children ages 8-13.

**Ready, Set, Go** under the direction Linda Hillman is ready for all children ages 4-6 who are looking for a fun and challenging experience and a flexible schedule. Not all children are ready or need to be in a full day program so whether you want a morning, afternoon, or full day we have options. The activities are age appropriate and vary from sports & games, crafts, imaginary play, music, swim lessons, tennis, to storytelling. The staff is caring and well-trained to make the Ready, Set, Go experience a happy time for summer fun. The program has weekly sessions through August 7.



**Tennis with Donna Holmes** Donna is a certified teaching professional who offers a variety of tennis classes as well as USTA team play. Donna has proven to be an excellent and accomplished instructor. Check out the department website for classes or email Donna at [skitenispro@aol.com](mailto:skitenispro@aol.com) with questions.

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Tennis Tournament** will be held Monday- Friday the week of August 18-22 from 4-6M at the Stony Brook and Robinson courts. Play is "match play" and open to all players ready for match play. Flights will be determined after registration with registration due no later than August 13<sup>th</sup>. To

register go to [www.westfordrec.com](http://www.westfordrec.com).



## Emergency Management

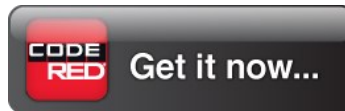


CodeRED is a Community Messaging System, used to notify residences of emergency, non-emergency and general information through an automated telephone dialing system, which sends a message automatically to thousands of targeted residences and/or contact databases.

Most residents will not need to take action in order to receive notification of events on their home telephone. However, if you have recently moved into Westford, changed your home phone number, or have an unlisted phone number you will need to register your phone number. If you had previously registered in the CityWatch system you do not need to register again in CodeRED.

[Click here](#) to register additional phone numbers or email addresses.

Click the icon below to download the CodeRED Mobile Alert App for your smartphone.



### **Get MEMA Emergency Information on your cellphone via text alerts or through MEMA's smartphone app for iPhone and Android users.**

There are now two primary methods that citizens in Massachusetts can get emergency information on their cellphones, Ping4alerts! and Wireless Emergency Alerts. Both of these methods will provide timely and important information about emergencies and hazards in your area and how you should respond to ensure your safety. Important messages may be delivered using both methods. Learn more about each of the two methods with the information provided below:

[Ping4alerts!](#)

[Wireless Emergency Alerts](#)



## Veterans Services

### *Proper Disposal of the American Flag*



The US Flag Code. TITLE 4 > CHAPTER 1 > Sec. 8(k) states:

*"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning"*

There are various collection points throughout the town where a resident can drop of flags that are no longer suitable for displaying:



★ A local Cub Scout Pack has made containers that are located in the Westford US Post Office locations in Nab, Forge Village and the main post office on Littleton Rd.

★ The entrance lobby of American Legion Post 437, 114 Dunstable Rd., flag collection container.

★ The Veterans Services department office located in the Millennium Building at Door 9, leave with the staff or leave in the lobby.

## Healthcare Proxy for Veterans and others

At a recent visit to the VA Medical Center, the VA is asking all under their care to complete an advance directive form which is an official document where you can write down your preferences for your health care. If someday you can't make health care decisions for yourself anymore, this advance directive can help guide the people who will make decisions for you.

You can use this form to:

- Name specific people to make health care decisions for you
- Describe your preferences for how you want to be treated
- Describe your preferences for medical care, mental health care, long-term care, or other types of health care

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE	
Living Will	_____
Health Care Proxy	_____
Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care	_____
Other	_____

As you complete this form, it's important that you also talk to your doctor, family, and other loved ones who may help to decide about your care. You should explain what you meant when you filled out the form.

A health care professional can help you with this form and can answer any questions that you have. Be sure to initial and date every page that you attach.

The link to the [VA Advance Directive: Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will](#)

Massachusetts offers its own version of the Healthcare Proxy which many not be recognized by the VA but it is suitable for your private and community medical services. Check out the website below for [Health Care Proxy and other Advance Care Planning for seniors and other residents of Massachusetts:](#)

Please take the time to do this now.

## Veterans Services (Continued)

### Westford Vets and families attend Military Appreciation Night at Lowell Spinners



The night of July 10<sup>th</sup> was a perfect night for baseball and family fun. Thanks to Raytheon, 1,000 tickets were made available to area veterans, active duty and reservists for the game. Veterans Service Officer Terry Stader reached out through social media and local newsletters to promote the event and acquired 30 tickets for Westford.

Throughout the evening there were several tributes to military (past and present) personnel in the stands. Wherever you were at in the stadium you saw folks showing their "colors" in the forms to ball caps, t-shirts, as well as people in uniform. The 1<sup>st</sup> 1,000 fans through the gates got Canaigator Bobbleheads!

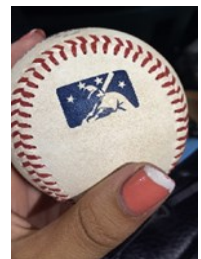
Several of our family members got to pose with the entertainment in the stadium and capture t-shirts catapulted from the field or a foul ball or two. I think that Shane Victorino had a big fan base; at least the noise level was high when he came in and out of left field. The Westford box seats were along the first base side... terrific seats except for the sun in the early portions of the game!



It was great to see so many folks representing our armed forces with their families. I saw lots of fans come up and shake the hands of our vets and thank them for their service.

Other veteran-related events for this year are possibly in the works, so watch for announcements on the town website and on social media.

The Veterans Services Department's website is [westfordma.gov/veterans](http://westfordma.gov/veterans); Facebook is [www.facebook.com/WestfordDVS](http://www.facebook.com/WestfordDVS). Our telephone number is (978) 392-1170.



*Canaigator Bobblehead*



## Minot's Corner Construction Update



*Town Engineer Paul Starratt (left) working with State Department of Transportation Official on utility relocation issues.*



*Large strain pole foundations being installed to accommodate the enormous span of traffic signal mast-head arms that will hang over RT 110.*





## Green Community

### **Green Community Grant Funds used to save approximately \$23,000 per year**

With grant funding from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources awarded as part of our Green Community designation, we recently completed projects that are expected to save approximately \$23,000 per year in utility expenses.

A single high efficiency boiler was installed to replace two existing boilers at the Blanchard Middle School.

High efficiency LED lighting was installed in the parking lots at Town Hall, Police Station, JV Fletcher Library, and the Cameron Senior Center. All interior lights at the Police Station were retrofitted with high efficiency LED and florescent fixtures. Also, interior lights in a portion of the Highway Facility were also retrofitted.



*High efficiency boiler at Blanchard School .*



*LED lighting installed multiple parking lots .*



Massachusetts  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
RESOURCES

**WESTFORD  
DESIGNATED 2013**



## Recycling Commission

### How to Use your New Recycling Guide


Recently Westford residents opened their mailbox and found a valuable resource inside – the updated 2014-2015 Recycling Guide. Seldom among the unexpected ads and solicitations do we find something so useful in our mail.

Highlighted in the Guide is the Collection Calendar, showing the schedule for waste and recycling pickups for the next year, as well as dates for special collections like hazardous waste – we're having a collection this fall! - and used electronics. The calendar is an important reference to use from now until June, 2015 – post it on your refrigerator or bulletin board where you can check it easily. Which items can and can't go into your recycling bin? How can you purchase a 64 gallon recycling "toter"? See those details in the Guide.

The Westford Recycling website, [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling), supplements the Guide with ideas on how to recycle dozens of other items and materials. Click on "Recycling A to Z" to find out where can you bring used books, toner cartridges, button batteries and other things you don't want to put in your trash.

The bottom line is, if it has to do with recycling in Westford, you can find it in the Guide – or, as an alternative, at [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling). If you can't find the answer you're looking for, feel free to call a member of the Recycling Commission. Where can you find their phone numbers? Of course, they're in the Guide.

- Thank you for recycling!




### Westford Recycling Guide

#### July 2014-June 2015

[westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling)

**Recycling is Easy....**



- No Sorting! Paper, glass bottles, plastic, cans, mail, newspaper all go in your bin or barrel together.

- Place recycling at the curb by 7 am on your scheduled pick up day (see calendar below).

- Recycling is mandatory, and your trash will not be taken if you are not recycling. On your recycling week, put out your full recycling container at the curb and leave it there, even if it has been emptied, until the trash truck comes. If you choose not to recycle, you will have to hire your own trash hauler.

- Place your trash barrels on one side of the driveway, recycling on the other side.

- Any items that are not recyclable will be left behind with a reject sticker to explain why the items were not collected.

- You may use a trash barrel for recyclables, but must write "Recycling" on it or get a free "Recycle" sticker at the Town Clerk's office.

- To buy a 64 gallon wheeled toter, send a check for \$45 to the Town Hall, 55 Main Street, payable to "Westford Recycling Commission."

**2014-2015 Curbside Collection Calendar**

Recycling collection is every other week on your trash day. See [westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling) for a street-by-street schedule. Holidays are circled; there is no collection on these days. Collections are delayed by one day following the holiday.

**Problems with pickups? For recycling, call Integrated Paper (IPR), 781-933-3013.**  
**For trash, call Acme Waste, 781-935-6339.**  
**If your issue is not resolved within 24 business hours, call Town Manager's office at 978-692-5501.**

July 2014							August 2014							September 2014							October 2014							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30				26	27	28	29	30	31				

November 2014							December 2014							January 2015							February 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29	30									
30																											

March 2015							April 2015							May 2015							June 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7													1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30						

**Special Collection Events** (indicated by the symbol △ on the Calendar).

All events are held at the Highway Garage, 28 North Street, Westford.

Electronics Collections: Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. Please visit [westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling) for dates and fees.

Brush Chipping: October 18, 2014; April 25, 2015. 10:30am-4:30pm; \$10/load. CASH only.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: November 8, 2014. 9am-1pm. Visit [westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling) for details.

Litter League Green Team: Visit [westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling).

[westfordma.gov/recycling](http://westfordma.gov/recycling)

